

Dimock, PA follow-up call w/House Science Committee (minority) Staff
April 5, 2012

Participants:

House Science Committee minority staff: **Jetta Wong** and **Shimere Williams**
OECA: **Bernadette Rappold**, **Patricia Mott**, **Tim Sullivan**, **Ann Berube** and **Rey Rivera**
OSWER: **Randy Dietz**
EPA Region 3: **Cecil Rodriques**, **Jennie Saxe** and **Dennis Carney**
OCIR: **Pamela Jannifer**

Dennis Carney and Cecil Rodriguez (R3) briefly discussed the progress of the 3 1/2 weeks of sampling efforts:

- Sampling has been completed in 57 of the 61 homes to be sampled.
- The results for the 11 homes sampled during the first week of sampling have been provided to the residents and posted online (http://epaossc.org/site/doc_list.aspx?site_id=7555) (<http://www.epaossc.org/sites/7555/files/Week%201%20Report%20Highlighted%20%2003%2027%2012.pdf>). Nothing shows a health concern at this point. Houses with elevated methane levels were notified.
- In the first round, three homes are still receiving alternate water. Two homes were found with arsenic levels above trigger level but below MCL. Five homes will be re-sampled with a more targeted list of analytical parameters. Data packages were delivered to the residents along with opportunities to discuss concerns about health effects.
- The results for the 20 homes sampled during the second week of sampling were being distributed to the homeowners today (Thursday) and the data will likely be posted online tomorrow. One home will be re-sampled.
- Cabot Oil & Gas and PADEP took concurrence samples (not split samples) in some homes.
- Region 3 is waiting for results on radionuclides.

Questions from Congressional staff:

Q: Is EPA Region 3 planning to officially request Cabot's sampling results?

A: Region 3 has not seen Cabot's results. Although EPA could request to see them under the removal action, they would rather emphasize that EPA's primary goal is to get our own data.

Q: What about State's samples?

A: PADEP has offered its data whenever EPA is ready to receive them. State is using its own lab and sampling for a smaller set of parameters. EPA has good working relations with the State regarding data exchange and scheduling sampling events.

Q: Do Cabot and PADEP have access to EPA sampling plan?

A: Region 3 shared the plan with the list of parameters and sampling schedule. Plan is also posted on online (http://epaossc.org/sites/7555/files/Dimock_SAP_Rev01_Final.pdf). A letter was sent to Cabot and the State describing the process and the logistics of the sampling investigation. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has logbook documenting this communications with Cabot and the State.

Q: Is Cabot or the State doing isotropic analyses?

A: Cabot is doing them but not the State.

Q: What are the next steps?

A: Region 3 will be distributing the data packages for the homes sampled during the second week of sampling and scheduling visits for the homes sampled in the third week of sampling. The six homes identified in the first two rounds of data releases will be re-sampled.

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Q: Are there homes still getting alternate water?

A: EPA will continue providing the water until the results of the re-sampling show that there are no health concerns.

Q: Did EPA get any questions from the majority staff regarding the newspaper articles about the new court cases filed regarding CERCLA activities?

A: No. But obviously the articles have incorrect information. Our action is authorized by CERCLA Section 104(e).

Q: Is EPA planning to pursue cost recovery? How much has been spent so far?

A: By the end of the week will have an estimate of the costs. It will cover the emergency action component (alternate water) and the sampling component (mainly the analytical costs for the samples analyzed by non-EPA labs).

Q: What role is EPA Office of Research & Development playing in this investigation?

A: ORD is not playing any role in directing the project. There was an initial consultation with them about the list of analytical parameters, and for the review of the sampling and quality assurance plan. They also review the health assessment. ORD was consulted to avoid any type of potential conflict with their national fracking study.

Q: Is EPA planning to prepare a report for peer review of the sampling results as it was done for Pavillion? What process is EPA using to decide whether or not to put out a report?

A: That hasn't been discussed. The OSC will determine what the end products of the sampling results will be. Region 3 is following the Superfund process and its removal authorities.

Q: Did the majority staff asked for anything else?

A: They asked about why EPA is still providing alternate water. EPA considers appropriate to re-sample those homes and then decide whether alternate water service is still necessary.

More information / documents about the case at: http://epaossc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=7555.